

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/748,105

Examiner

Quoc A. Tran

Applicant(s)

JEFFREY ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/07/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4,5,7-11,13-20,22,23 and 28-36.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 2/4/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Chadwick A. Jackson, Attorney for Applicants, Reg. No.: 49,465, Customer No. 19-5127 on 02/01/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 28 6, wherein the access is further limited is based on ~~defined by a combination of: an amount of information that a user may access; an ability to print contracts and information; an ability to attach and edit information attached to a contract record; an ability to create and edit a contract summary page for at least a one of the contracts; an ability to archive a contract, the an ability to enter and edit critical dates; an ability to enter and edit assets attached to a contract; an ability to create and enter vendor information; an ability to be named as a responsible party to a contract; an ability to delete a vendor; an ability to create, edit or delete users; and an ability to make global changes to summary pages of a database of the party to the contracts.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein providing remote access to the contracts comprises:

displaying a contract attribute search page comprising lists of alternatives for each ~~member~~ type of identification data in of the ~~standard~~ customized set of identification data;

selecting at least one alternative for each ~~member~~ type of identification data in of the ~~standard~~ customized set of identification data; and  
initiating the search.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14 43, wherein the categories of contract information include at least one of: a contract number, a contract type, a contract signatory, an other signatory, a responsible party, a contract vendor, a contracting entity, a contracting department, a contract site, a contracting group, a contract note original date, a contract expiration date, expiration of contracts for a specified user, automatically renewing contracts, a critical date, contract status, of and an other contracting party, wherein all contracts having the same contract information for the selected category are displayed.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15 43, wherein the displayed information comprises a contract page comprising ~~at least the specific~~ information from the document record for the ~~specific~~ selected contract.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 28, further comprising:  
generating a new document record for a new contract utilizing the document record as a template.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 28, further comprising:  
providing remote electronic access over the internet to a contract ~~contracts~~ being  
negotiated;

providing entry of comments concerning the contract ~~contracts~~ by a user ~~users~~;  
and providing remote electronic access over the internet to a contract commented on by  
the user ~~users~~.

28. (Currently amended) A method for storing, organizing and providing remote  
electronic access to contracts, the method comprising: storing a customized set of  
identification data for characterizing a set of contracts, wherein each identification data  
in the customized set of identification data corresponds to contract information;  
converting a specific contract and a customized document profile form for the specific  
contract to an electronic file, wherein the electronic file includes an image of the specific  
contract; processing the electronic file, wherein a searchable text file of the specific  
contract is overlaid with the image of the specific contract; reading the customized  
document profile form, wherein the customized document profile form includes the  
customized set of identification data for selection; determining whether at least one  
identification data is selected on the customized document profile form; if so, creating a  
document record for the specific contract that includes the specific information  
corresponding to the at least one identification data in a database of document records  
for contracts; and associating the electronic file with the document record in the  
database: and limiting access to the set of contracts and specific information related to  
the set of contracts;

wherein the access is limited based on an amount of information that a user may access: an ability to print at least a one of the contracts in the set of contracts and the specific information for the at least one of the contracts; an ability to attach and edit the specific information for the at least one of the contracts; and an ability to create, edit or delete a user.

29. (Currently amended) A computer program product for performing a process of storing, organizing and providing remote electronic access to documents, comprising: a computer readable medium; and computer program instructions, recorded on the computer readable medium, executable by a processor, for performing the steps of: storing a customized set of identification data for characterizing a set of contracts, wherein each identification data in the customized set of identification data corresponds to contract information; reading a customized document profile form for a specific contract, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection and wherein the customized document profile form and the specific contract is converted into an electronic file; determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form; if so, creating a document record for the specific contract that includes the specific information corresponding to the at least one identification data in a database of document records for contracts; and

associating the electronic file with the document record in the database; and  
limiting access to the set of contracts and specific information related to the set of contracts;

wherein the access is limited based on an amount of information that a user may access; an ability to print at least a one of the contracts in the set of contracts and the specific information for the at least one of the contracts; an ability to attach and edit the specific information for the at least one of the contracts; and an ability to create, edit or delete a user.

30. (Currently amended) A system for performing a process of for storing, organizing and providing remote electronic access to documents, comprising: a processor operable to execute computer program instructions; and a memory operable to store computer program instructions executable by the processor, for performing the steps of storing a customized set of identification data for characterizing a set of contracts, wherein each identification data in the customized set of identification data corresponds to contract information; reading a customized document: profile form for a specific contract, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection and wherein the customized document profile form and the specific contract is converted into an electronic file; determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form; if so, creating a document record for the specific contract that includes the specific information corresponding to the at least one identification data in a database of document records for contracts; and

associating the electronic file with the document record in the database, and limiting access to the set of contracts and specific information related to the set of contracts;

wherein the access is limited based on an amount of information that a user may access; an ability to print at least a one of the contracts in the set of contracts and the specific information for the at least one of the contracts: an ability to attach and edit the specific information for the at least one of the contracts: and an ability to create edit or delete a user.

31. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein access is further limited based on an ability to archive at least a one of the contracts.

32. (New) The method according claim 28, wherein the access is further limited based on an ability to enter and edit critical dates.

33. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein the access is further limited based on an ability to enter and edit assets attached to at least a one of the contracts.

34. (New) The method according to claim 28 wherein the access is further limited based on an ability to create delete and enter vendor information.

35. (New) The method according to claim 28. wherein the access is further limited based on an ability to be named as a responsible party to a contract.

36. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein the access is further limited based on an ability to make global changes at least a one of the contracts.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Claims 2, 4-5, 7-11, 13-23 and 28-36 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's arguments, and the supplemental amendment, which resulting from the telephone interview on 02/01/2005. Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

Applicant's particular computer-implemented system and associated method for storing, organizing and providing remote electronic access to contracts, the method which includes, storing a customized set of identification data for characterizing a set of contracts, wherein each identification data in the customized set of identification data corresponds to contract information; converting a specific contract and a customized document profile form for the specific contract to an electronic file, wherein the electronic file includes an image of the specific contract; processing the electronic file, wherein a searchable text file of the specific contract is overlaid with the image of the specific contract; reading the customized document profile form, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection; determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form; if so, creating a document record for the specific contract that includes the specific information corresponding to the at least one identification data in a database of document records for contracts: and associating the electronic file with the document record in the database: and limiting access to the set of contracts and specific information related to the set of contracts; wherein the access is



limited based on an amount of information that a user may access: an ability to print at least a one of the contracts in the set of contracts and the specific information for the at least one of the contracts; an ability to attach and edit the specific information for the at least one of the contracts; and an ability to create, edit or delete a user, in combination with the other limitations of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

The closest prior art, The prior art of record, Gillings et al. US No. 5,666,490 filed 05/16/1994, in view of Anderson et al. US No. 5,581,682 issued 12/03/1996 filed 06/25/1992, in further view of Harris, Jr. et al. US No. 6,144,975 filed 05/05/1998 (hereinafter '975), fails to anticipate or render Applicants limitations above obvious.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-

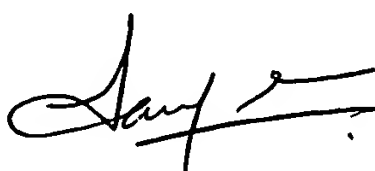
4103. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Feild Joseph can be reached on (571) -272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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**Quoc A. Tran**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 2176**  
**February 4, 2005**

  
**SANJIV SHAH**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**